

Cohasset Mariner

The Mariner (and supplements) is a paid circulation newspaper published every Thursday at 541 Plain St., Marshfield, Mass. 02050 for and about the residents of Cohasset. Telephone 383-6321 or 837-3500. Mailing address: Box 71, Cohasset, Mass. 02025. Second class postage paid at Marshfield, Mass. 02050.

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As the Mariner goes to press Tuesday night, all news and advertising copy must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. Classified advertising must be received by Monday at noon. Readers are invited to submit personal items, accounts of social functions, meetings, weddings and engagements. Photographs (black and white glossy) are also welcome.

Subscription rates: in-town \$8 for one year and \$14 for two years; out-of-town \$10 for one year and \$17 for two years.

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Box 682, Marshfield, Mass. 02050

Editorial

Reaffirmation

"We shall focus on what happens here — at the churches, in the schools, at town hall and around town... We aim to be constructive, cohesive and friendly."

In October, shortly before the first **Cohasset Mariner** rolled off the press, we wrote an introductory editorial outlining our reason for being. It included the excerpts above. Now, having been around for eight months and risen into orbit, we think it appropriate to reaffirm our purpose for entering so highly a competitive field that has grown more competitive since we began.

Stating our purpose is easy, because it hasn't changed in eight months and won't change in eight more months or in eight more years. As we said from the start, the **Cohasset Mariner** is a community newspaper bent on publishing Cohasset news for and about Cohasset people. It is nothing more and nothing less.

Community is the key word here. It underscores our goal to remain local, of course, but more than that, it requires a certain give and take be at work. It demands a close rapport that will allow readers to have an influence over what is published.

The word "community" also implies a degree of local boosterism that does not have a place in larger newspapers or in newspaper chains run from the outside. It should not suggest that we will ignore or avoid unpleasant news. Nothing of the sort. But it does mean that we won't accentuate the negative or subscribe to the old newspaper saw that bad news is good news. There are too many positive things to report.

In eight months, we have worked to become a community newspaper with all that the word "community" implies. Read the **Mariner** this week, compare it to a **Mariner** of six months ago and you'll see the thread uncut. It is Cohasset news — all Cohasset news — and if that be parochial, we plead guilty again. Trying to cover the world or even a chunk of the South Shore was never our purpose. We staked out the local route and we plan to stay on it.

Eight months is not a long time in the history of a newspaper, and it would be presumptuous to say we have arrived in so short a time. But we are arriving. The response to a strictly Cohasset paper for Cohasset people has been strong and continues to grow. We are grateful for it.

Banging the local yokel drum should not be equated with a call for amateurism. Though we would be the first to say the **Mariner** has shortcomings (well, maybe not the first), we can say with confidence that the paper is written, edited and produced by professionals who know their business. We are proud of our staff.

Finally, we can say without equivocation that every effort is made here to present the news without bias. We have no axes to grind, no political corners to stake out. We believe that objectivity and fairness are cornerstones of all journalism — as important to the **Mariner** as they are to **The New York Times**.

Around Town Hall

EXTRA MONEY

Extra money from the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration (FDAA) was approved for two Cohasset 1978 storm-related projects. Selectman Arthur Clark reported last week. The \$6300 partial contract that had been approved for seawall repairs between Hugo's parking lot and the boatyard will be buoyed at \$9600, the amount of the low bid for the construction.

An additional \$200 will also be allowed to pay for the transportation of ramps and floats for the harbor.

CZM APPLICATION

The towns of Cohasset and Hull are requesting \$8000 in Coastal Zone Management (CZM) assistance for additional Straits Pond studies. The towns will commit matching funds of \$2000 in order to fund the study.

The towns have both appropriated up to \$10,000 for a technical engineering study which will serve to define problems of eutrophication in Straits Pond and to establish, through specific recommendation, a long term program of reclamation.

The CZM grant would enable appropriations to be expended on the implementation of the first phase of the actual reclamation program.

INSURANCE LAW

Whether or not a new federal law allowing both single and married women carrying individual insurance policies to add maternity benefits to their policy affects the Town of Cohasset has been referred to Town Counsel J. Blake Thaxter for a ruling.

Last week Selectmen received a report from a representative of Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the insurance company covering town employees. She advised the board and members of various town departments that the new mandatory maternity benefits must be made available to female employees with individual policies or the town may be held liable for maternity expenses not made available to them.

Should Town Counsel find that Cohasset is a municipality covered by the law, then it would be up to Cohasset as employer to add the benefit premiums for the maternity coverage. Individual monthly rates would increase from \$40.54 to \$42.10; family premiums would increase from \$107.02 to \$107.10 if the individual policy maternity benefits were added.

DECOR WANTED

Theresa Williams asked Selectmen Wednesday night if she could decorate her family lots at Woodside Cemetery with low rose bush hedges, her departed husband's favorite flowers. She offered to plant the bushes and to manage upkeep herself.

Selectmen were concerned about the maintenance of the hedges should she be unable



to and recommended that she discuss the matter with Tree and Park Superintendent Peter Laugelle.

Mrs. Williams vehemently objected to the barrenness of the lots, which are not allowed extensive planting. Selectmen claimed that she knew the cemetery rules and regulations when she bought the lots. Mrs. Williams said she knew nothing of the stipulations and was in receipt of the deed only.

CEMETERY STUDY

The Cemetery Study Committee is now completed with members John Rhodes, John Souther, and Robert Davenport. The Committee will examine ways in which space can be better used in town cemeteries.

APPOINTMENT MADE

David Wadsworth, Town Hall record archivist, has been appointed to the Historical Commission.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is changing their meeting from the second Wednesday of the month to the second Monday. Meetings will not be held in July and August.

Selectmen will submit to the Personnel Committee the recommendation that the salary for James Litchfield, Building Inspector and Zoning Officer, be raised \$1000, or reclassified to \$12. Litchfield's current salary is approximately \$14,500.

BYLAW CHANGES

Changes in the vacation bylaw per order of Town Meeting should read calendar and not fiscal year where applicable.

DECISION POSTPONED

Selectmen requested from Civil Service that their decision on the appointment of a new patrolman for the Police Department be delayed until their meeting Wednesday night this week. The decision was to have been made Monday.

MORE ON SANDY BEACH

The Sandy Beach Association will return the information they have garnered on the restoration needs of the beach to Selectman Arthur Clark within a month. Clark has been designated by the Association to officially request for an extension until the fall for use of the \$55,000 in FDAA money intended for a sand restoration project at Sandy Beach.

Clark said last week that the Disaster Recovery Team indicated that extension of the funds would be possible.

HARBOR DREDGED

Julian Dredging Company performed a maintenance dredging project at Government Island Pier recently, and also removed 16 pilings in a few days that had prohibited use of that area by commercial and pleasure boats for a long, long time, according to Harbormaster Harry Ritter.

The problem that existed was that on a minus tide, Ritter explained, the commercial fishing boats were delayed three-quarters to an hour before they could take on bait, fuel, or lobster pots from the pier.

The dredging project consisted of removing 450 cubic yards of mud and silt to alleviate the problems so that fishermen can now get into the pier at any time without waiting, Ritter said. The new depth at Government Island Pier is now eight feet, whereas before it was four and a half to six feet.

There were 16 piles removed in front of the pier that were not taken out in the 1956 removal of the wooden structure attached to the pier. "That's how long it takes to get something done around here," Ritter remarked.

Tribute To Francis Downs

1883-1979

By Joanne Young

I met Frances Downs in the last months of her long and productive life, and am sorry I did not know her sooner. She never felt that living out her life in its last years was eventful or important, as she watched the passing parade from her flower-filled window in the Ripley Road Nursing Home.

She greatly missed her pretty home on James Lane, filled with loving memories of her family and friends. Fannie spoke of her gardens, her family pets and the good times spent there with her mother,

father, and sisters. She was a loyal daughter and sister, a talented secretary, an excellent horsewoman and gardener, and a sharing friend.

It was most joyful to be in her company and share her memories of a serene and loving life lived quietly and with grace and good humor in the gentle world of her childhood and womanhood.

Fannie loved life and lived it well and with elan in her beloved Cohasset. With her twinkling eyes and soft smile, she would be the first to dispute this tribute, but she was confidently ready for this last new adventure.

Goodbye, Fan. It was my good fortune to know you for just a little while.